

Robert Scheer at FFF Conference 2007, Part 3 of 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svzNbjHiMwU> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svzNbjHiMwU>)

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Robert Scheer on "Ike Was Right and We Are Becoming What We Despise" at the Future of Freedom Foundation's <http://fff.org> Restoring the Republic, 2007.

Robert Scheer covered presidential politics for The Los Angeles Times for thirty years. He is the author of six books, including: *With Enough Shovels: Reagan, Bush, and Nuclear War*; *America after Nixon: The Age of the Multinationals*; and coauthor of *The Five Biggest Lies Bush Told Us about Iraq*.

Playlist of Scheer's lecture: http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=24B11D216AD6C419

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let's give them their Vietnam and the Soviets are backing their surrogates there in Kabul got in power and they happen to be secular guys and Kabul is a kind of a better place then the other guys and OH they've invaded and we give them their Vietnam and the guys they're opposed to their freedom fighters right so we ended up on the side of the Muslim fanatics in Afghanistan remember we didn't go to the Moscow Olympics to show the Soviets okay fast forward you read the 911 Commission report Khalid Sheikh Mohammed well how does he meet bin Laden they're both recruited they meet on the front line as freedom fighters in Afghanistan Khalid Sheikh Mohammed the mastermind of the 911 attacks we couldn't find enough of these fanatics in Afghanistan from among the Afghani people so we had to recruit him from all over the world all right and we bring them there and that's the blowback and that madness that silliness that mixture of political advantage in careerism and everything else which is what color was doing how do I avoid this problem i do it this way same thing that the johnson was doing when he wanted a sabotage goldwater let's do vietnam and expand it and so forth has been characteristic of this foreign policy of this building event part ok why do were their hostages in your right because somewhere back in 1953 you know my guy decided let's get rid of this hour Allen Dulles and so let's get rid of Mohammed masa de the last secular popular rule that we had in a rock let's get rid of him Kermit Roosevelt the fellow I interviewed on his deathbed told me a great detail how we did it when I was working for the other times it's well documented now in

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other times it's well documented now in the books we bought off the opposition we do this thing we get rid of my haha Macedon what are we saddled with then the new George Washington like Ahmed Chalabi was going to be the George Washington of Iraq so we had the shot a figure we invented given royal heritage and everything and that what is the great crime of the Shah we make them by all his junk all these airplanes airport hotels everything else you can't pay for it he says I better stiff in this thing called OPEC and get some more money for my oil goodbye shah next thing you know you got these ayatollahs and they're angry with us okay now go ahead other side you got sanam Hussein how does he enter the picture there's a guy named chasm who is tilting ever so slightly to the Soviets in the cold war or so we think Sanne machine is in a gang of thugs hey he can use him to bump off alright so sad I'm hossain gun becomes a player and it's interesting the only trial that for which the crimes against humanity for which chatham Hussein was convicted after all took place or anyone notice in 1982 he was not convicted for any crimes he I'm not saying he didn't commit any I think he was later crimes probably every month of his life but the crimes that he was convicted of four 1982 now why did the media in this country ignore the fact that those crimes were all committed before he

had his famous handshake with Donald Rumsfeld before our government embraced him right before we developed the alliance with Saddam. Same these crimes were committed before he became our surrogate in a war against Iran right was there with the bad guys right now what's the situation fast forward today in Iraq it's just this last week our ambassador met with the rogue regimes ambassador and Baghdad to get him to

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ambassador and Baghdad to get him to bail us out that's what's really happening at and we've given up on the idea this might be some kind of secular democracy and forget Israel I keeps getting mention here at the conference let me just say my view on the neoconservatives with friends like the neoconservatives Israel doesn't need enemies you know Israel has never been more isolated in a more vulnerable position in the Mideast thanks to Wolfowitz and Pearl in these people it's just incredible and the Israeli public house rejected politicians who have taken that position they know why because we now have an arc of religious fanaticism going from Lebanon to Iraq Shiite fanaticism we've destroyed any possibility of secular alternatives and we are dependent for our exit strategy in Iraq on the very people that we say are the greatest menace in the world people are running Iran that their surrogates that are sitting there with protecting in the Green Zone these are people who lived in exile in Iran they were trained there they still get their money there according to our military they still get there getting an advanced weaponry from there and Ahmed Chalabi was even accused by our government of having been an agent for Iran are George Washington turned out to be an agent so what I'm suggesting then is that in the name of we know what we're doing we have the information we are rational we are adults watching the store if you actually look at the sequence of events their bizarre if someone did this who was cleaning a house you would fire him you know I mean they're not one single instance holds up it's absolutely bizarre and the argument is compelling every time we have to stay the course whether it was wise to get in or not we have to stay the course but getting out is worse right and that was the argument

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is worse right and that was the argument that that drove Vietnam now Daniel Ellsberg and I want to speak for him but I had to do too many times in my life and Daniel Ellsberg was once a gung-ho believer in the mission you know and he was there all right and then quite earlier I figured out this was not working you know now we still went on after many people had figured that out went on killing a lot of people and you ask people now what was the reason why we were there why was it so difficult to get out interesting question remember those arguments you can't just get out and the prediction is if you get out as there are these dire predictions about Iraq right now if you get out all this will happen and this will happen in that will happen they love to do that they love to get you involved and then it's your responsibility to figure out how to get out I remember thinking about this wait a minute I first wrote about Vietnam sitting there in Saigon and in Phnom Penh and everything in 1964 I said don't go in here don't somehow I have to spend much of my adult life telling them how to get out and that's the way I feel about Iraq you know you say don't go in and now somehow they hold all the high cards you can't just get out well what was the great debate about Vietnam and most of those American soldiers and most of those indochinese people died after Nixon promised to get us out okay what is the greater the domino theory a communism movie enhance you go back and look at what was said right no reason to ever say it the sino-soviet disputed begun back in the 1920s there were already been to communist governments in the world that was speaking to each other you know I mean the tension was real read Khrushchev's memoirs or anything under there was no no international communist conspiracy in a timetable to take over the world was pokin they knew it but they made all these dire predictions fact is we got

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these dire predictions fact is we got out the wrong way we waited too long when we got out under the most ignominious of circumstances lifting people up the embassy it wasn't necessary to do that they were negotiated agreements five years before seven years before that could win a place it could have been orderly didn't have to be chaos you know that same possibility is true for Iraq you have to get out eight

o'clock context will you just have to be serious about it that you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem you're making matters worse okay well we finally a forced to leave Vietnam we get out under the most ignominious biggest defeat America's other height in the eyes of the world what happens communism become supreme right the red tide you know if we don't find a mayor will have to fight him in San Diego you know now I know there are people in San Diego will actually believe those workers coming across the board or our Communist Chinese agents I had those conversations but the fact of the matter is the one thing that happened which is anyone who had read anything I you know even read Graham Greene's the quiet american at Redburn odwalla read anything would have known would happen Red China and red Vietnam went to war they went to war over Cambodia where the Red Chinese with our blessings and jimmy carter's blessings were backing the retentive return Paul pie back to power such as the cynicism okay after the Vietnamese had kicked it out I think too late all right for what happened they first fight over that and then they fight over their historic border disputes and anyone knew anything about the history of reason would know that after a thousand years of Chinese occupation the Vietnamese did not fight this whole battle to turn their country over to the Chinese you know wasn't going to happen and it didn't happen okay and quite the opposite has happened the two fastest growing capitalist nations in Asia are run by these communist regimes that defeat it is okay

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communist regimes that defeat it is okay you know that's just a reality and no one absorbs it how can we get this also wrong

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